

HOUSE RESOLUTION 329
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jeff McCarley Wiles of
Somerville, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Jeff McCarley Wiles; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional
who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous
capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on October 28, 1921, to the late Bevy Overton Wiles and the late Willie
Mae McCarley Wiles, Jeff McCarley Wiles was a lifelong resident of Fayette County; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Fayette County High School, he answered the call to
duty and served in the United States Army Air Corps for two years during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Jeff Wiles married the former Marie Henley Umbarger; she is a
retired nurse who formerly worked for the Morris Medical Clinic in Somerville; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles served with acumen and alacrity as a grocery store owner and
operator for many years, in which business he earned the respect of his peers and customers
alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedication to customer service; and

WHEREAS, known for his love of people and Fayette County, he was first employed in
the grocery business at the Bailey Morrison Mercantile at Laconia; he later worked for his aunt
and uncle, who operated the Rena & Jeff Taylor Grocery Store in downtown Somerville; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles later formed a partnership with Walter S. Morris and founded the
Morris and Wiles Grocery, which was known for its hometown service; for example, it was the
last grocery store in Somerville to make home deliveries for its customers; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the grocery business, Mr. Wiles continued to interact with
the public as a teller for the Somerville Bank & Trust Company; and

WHEREAS, a man who enjoyed the friendship of people of all ages, Mr. Wiles offered encouragement and words of support to many friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, an avid sports fan, he enjoyed basketball, baseball, and football, as well as rooting for his St. Louis Cardinals and Tennessee Volunteers in their games; and

WHEREAS, in his spare time, friends and neighbors could find Jeff Wiles listening to Southern gospel music or tending to his vegetable garden; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles was an active and devout member of the Mt. Carmel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years in numerous positions, including Church Treasurer and Clerk of Sessions; he also served as an Elder at his church and was a member of the Union Cemetery Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Marie Henley Umbarger Wiles, and was the proud father of Willie Jeff Wiles of Somerville, J.P. Umbarger of Summertown, and Marvin Umbarger of Somerville; he is also survived by one brother, Bevy Overton Wiles of Somerville, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Wiles leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Jeff McCarley Wiles, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a businessman and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Jeff McCarley Wiles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.